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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

VALERY BOGOMOLNY,

Defendant.

No. CR 13-00666-SJO-1

GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCING POSITION
REGARDING DEFENDANT VALERY
BOGOMOLNY

DATE: October 7, 2016
TIME: 9:00AM
JUDGE: Hon. S. James Otero

Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (together, the "government"), submits this Sentencing Memorandum regarding Defendant Valery Bogomolny.

The government's Sentencing Memorandum is based on the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities; the declaration of Special Agent Rochelle Wong, and the exhibit thereto; all records and files

1 in the case; and any argument that the Court will hear at the
2 sentencing hearing.

3 Dated: September 23, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

4 EILEEN M. DECKER
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6 LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON
7 Assistant United States Attorney
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8 /s/

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11 Attorneys for Plaintiff
12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Defendant Valery Bogomolny was the owner and operator of Royal Medical Supply ("Royal"), a durable medical equipment ("DME") supply company. The business was permeated with fraud. More than a thousand beneficiaries lived over a hundred miles away from Royal. Beneficiaries were recruited by "patient marketers." They were taken to doctors who were not their primary care physicians. Prescriptions were written for DME by doctors who had either been indicted, associated with fraud, or had their identities stolen. The top seven doctors alone, several of whom either had their identities stolen or were associated with fraudulent prescriptions, accounted for seventy percent of Royal's business, while one hundred and sixty doctors accounted for the other thirty percent of the business. Beneficiaries did not need the DME they received and in many cases they did not receive the equipment at all. The defendant billed Medicare for everything, regardless. Royal billed over \$4 million to Medicare over nearly 4 years and was paid \$2.7 million by Medicare.

Based on all the evidence, the jury convicted defendant on November 6, 2015, of all six counts of a six count indictment for health care fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1347.

The government differs in certain aspects with the Presentence Investigation Report ("PSR") submitted by the United States Probation Office ("USPO"). For the reasons set forth below, the government respectfully submits that this Court should find that the defendant has a total offense level of 29, corresponding to an advisory range under the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("Guidelines" or "USSG") of 87 to 108 months imprisonment. Considering the Guidelines

1 range along with the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. ¶3553(a), the
2 government recommends that the Court sentence defendant to 87 months
3 in prison followed by three years of supervised release. The
4 government also recommends, in agreement with the PSR, that the Court
5 order defendant to make \$1,266,860.03 in restitution payments to the
6 Medicare program, the victim of defendant's offense.

7 **II. OFFENSE CONDUCT**

8 Defendant, as the owner and operator of Royal, submitted
9 applications to Medicare in order to receive a provider number. He
10 generally executed all of Royal's corporate documents, opened and
11 operated the bank accounts, and communicated with Medicare on behalf
12 of Royal. Royal generally billed Medicare for power wheelchairs,
13 back braces and knee braces. Through Royal, defendant billed
14 Medicare for DME that defendant knew was not medically necessary and
15 that in some cases was not delivered at all.

16 Several beneficiaries testified at trial. Nearly all of them
17 had been recruited by patient marketers who convinced beneficiaries
18 one way or another to go to clinics with them. None of them were
19 taken to their primary care physician and none of them needed the
20 equipment. Some beneficiaries confirmed that the power wheelchair
21 they received had never been used, sitting unwrapped in a corner,
22 while others stated they did not even receive the equipment that had
23 been billed by Royal. One beneficiary who testified, C.M., was never
24 even taken to a clinic. Some individuals had taken C.M.'s Social
25 Security card and did not return it until four days later.

26 Agents testified that there were numerous beneficiaries that
27 lived far distances away from Royal, which is located in Los Angeles.

1 Approximately one hundred and thirty beneficiaries that Royal billed
2 for lived in the Fresno area. Numerous other beneficiaries lived
3 south of San Diego. Evidence at trial showed that this was a red
4 flag to have beneficiaries located so far away from the DME company,
5 when there are over 7,000 DME companies in California, and there
6 being no reason beneficiaries could not go to a company in their
7 local area. Also, agents testified that at least eight beneficiaries
8 were interviewed in Fresno who had been billed by Royal for knee
9 braces or back braces and all eight beneficiaries had not received
10 the back or knee brace.

11 Agents also testified that they interviewed the defendant. The
12 defendant told agents that he was the sole owner of Royal and that no
13 family members worked with him, and that he was the one who made all
14 the decisions. SA Li testified that defendant denied supplying DME
15 to the Fresno area. And more importantly, he stated that he did not
16 sell power wheelchairs and only did so on rare instances, despite the
17 claims data very clearly showing that a significant portion of the
18 business was billing for power wheelchairs. SA Li also stated that
19 defendant confirmed his signatures on certain documents, including on
20 one delivery ticket purporting to deliver a knee and back brace in
21 the Fresno area (GX¹ 18 at 7).

22 At trial, defendant testified on his behalf and denied that he
23 said certain things to agents or otherwise disclaimed any knowledge
24 or participation in wrong doing. The jury did not believe him and
25 returned a guilty verdict on all counts.

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27
28 ¹ "GX" refers to Government Exhibit submitted at trial.

1 **III. GUIDELINES CALCULATIONS**

2 **A. Presentence Investigation Report**

3 On August 9, 2016, the USPO filed its PSR for defendant. (CR
4 116). In the PSR, the Guidelines range, pursuant to the November
5 2008 Guidelines Manual, was calculated as follows:

6 Base Offense Level : 6 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(2)]

7 Loss Amount (more
8 than \$1 million) : 16 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)]

9 Abuse of Trust : 2 [U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3]

10
11 Total : 24

12 Based on the PSR's finding of a Criminal History Category I, the
13 Guidelines range, as found by the PSR, on the health care fraud
14 counts (Counts One through Six) is 51-63 months.² The PSR found that
15 the intended loss was \$1,266,860.63, based on prescriptions from
16 certain doctors being associated with fraud and certain doctors
17 having their identities being stolen. The PSR also noted that "the
18 amount received, not the amount billed, is intended loss." (CR 116
19 at ¶22-23). The PSR recommended restitution in the amount of
20 \$1,266,860.03. (CR 116 at ¶74).

21 The government disagrees with the PSR's guidelines calculations
22 in three different aspects. First, the government's position is that
23 the billed amount, not the amount received by defendant, is the
24 intended loss in this case.³ Second, a 3-level increase for

25
26 ² Each of the six health care fraud counts carries a 10-year
statutory maximum sentence.

27 ³ The government notes that the billed amount and paid amount,
28 based upon the PSR's basis of establishing loss through fraudulent

1 Aggravating Role pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3B1.1(b) should apply. Third,
2 a 2-level increase for Obstruction of Justice pursuant to U.S.S.G.
3 §3C1.1 should apply.

4 **B. Loss Amount**

5 Evidence at trial showed, among other things, that none of the
6 beneficiaries needed or wanted the equipment; many of the
7 beneficiaries' signatures were forged; they were "recruited" by
8 "marketers;" and fake documents were created purporting to show that
9 home assessments were done, when in fact they were not. Defendant
10 Bogomolny signed or initialed many of these documents and then at
11 trial he denied that he did so. Even putting aside the significant
12 evidence that the entire business was permeated by fraud, it was
13 clearly established at trial, that at a minimum, Royal received
14 fraudulent prescriptions associated with at least six referring
15 physicians: Dr. J.C.W., Dr. S.O.S, Dr. H.D.E, Dr. J.W.E., Dr. P.C.S.,
16 and Dr. R.A.G.

17 Government Exhibit 33, admitted at trial, shows that three
18 doctors, Drs. J.C.W., S.O.S., and H.D.E had "Auto-Deny Edits" ("ADE")
19 set up for them by Medicare. (See GX 33). The Medicare witness at
20 trial testified that these types of Auto-Deny Edits are generally put
21 in place when a doctor's NPI number is noted as "compromised" or
22 associated with fraud in some way, or if a doctor signs an
23 attestation that his or her identity has been stolen. Consequently,
24 particular claims that are submitted which are associated with these
25 "compromised" doctors are then automatically denied. Government

26 _____
27 prescriptions from six referring providers (as discussed below), both
28 amount to over \$1,000,000 and less than \$2,500,000, and therefore, it
does not affect the enhancement for loss amount under U.S.S.G.
§2B1.1.

1 Exhibit 33, notes, for example, "STOLENNPI" with respect to Dr.
2 J.C.W. and Dr. H.D.E. (See GX 33 at pp. 1, 3).

3 As to Dr. S.O.S., in addition to the ADE set up for him, his
4 widow testified at trial that prescriptions at Royal which purported
5 to show Dr. S.O.S.'s signature, i.e., GX 31 admitted at trial, did not
6 actually contain Dr. S.O.S.'s signature. She also testified that her
7 late husband's identity had been stolen.

8 As to Dr. H.D.E., in addition to the ADE set up for him,
9 evidence at trial also included a prescription in his name for DME to
10 a beneficiary named C.M. (See GX 15 at pp. 9-10). C.M. testified at
11 trial that he never visited a clinic where anyone named Dr. H.D.E.
12 may have been working; he had no idea who Dr. H.D.E. was; and he
13 never received any of the DME prescribed by Dr. H.D.E. He also
14 testified that certain individuals had taken his driver license and
15 Social Security card and they did not return his driver's license for
16 about four days.

17 As to Dr. J.W.E., evidence at trial included a prescription in
18 his name for a power wheelchair to a beneficiary named N.C. (See GX
19 37 at pp. 5-6). Dr. J.W.E. was associated with numerous
20 prescriptions in the Fresno area, which was over two-hundred miles
21 away from Royal Medical Supply. N.C. testified at trial that she did
22 not need, want or request a power wheelchair. She also testified
23 that she had been recruited by "patient marketers" and had been taken
24 to multiple clinics in order to generate prescriptions.

25 As to Dr. P.C.S., evidence at trial showed that prescriptions
26 for equipment were signed in his name for beneficiaries, including
27 A.C., M.R., and M.H. who all testified that they did not need, want
28

1 or request the particular equipment. (See GX 36 at p. 5; GX 19 at p.
2 7; GX 35 at p. 13).

3 As to Dr. R.A.G., testimony at trial indicated that he had been
4 charged with health care fraud and associated with marketers who
5 brought beneficiaries to his clinic. In addition, evidence at trial
6 showed that beneficiary S.G. received medically unnecessary equipment
7 based on a prescription signed in Dr. R.A.G.'s name. (See GX 34 at
8 p. 4). S.G. testified that she cooks, cleans and does all her
9 housework.

10 The total billed based on prescriptions associated with these
11 six referring providers was \$1,822,130.50. (See Declaration of SA
12 Rochelle Wong at ¶4; GX 13). The corresponding total amount paid by
13 Medicare was \$1,266,860.03. (Decl. of SA Wong at ¶4; CR 116 at ¶23).
14 The government submits that this methodology presents a reasonable
15 estimate of the loss amount, based on fraudulent prescriptions
16 associated with the six referring providers noted above. The
17 intended loss is \$1,822,130.50, and as the higher of intended or
18 actual loss, it is the loss amount that should be used. However,
19 given that both the billed and paid amount per this loss calculation
20 exceed \$1 million, a 16-point enhancement would apply with respect to
21 either amount based on this loss calculation.⁴

22
23 ⁴ Though it does not ultimately make a difference under this
24 particular method of calculating loss, the government submits that
25 the amount billed is the intended loss while actual loss is, at a
26 minimum, the amount paid by Medicare. In this case, the higher of
27 these two numbers, the amount billed, \$1,822,130.50, is the intended
28 loss, and accordingly, this amount should be the amount that is used
as the loss amount (loss is the "greater of actual loss or intended
loss" as noted in application note 3 of the November 2008 sentencing
guidelines). U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1, App. Note 3(A). The PSR essentially
equates intended loss and actual loss as one and the same; that

1 As another reasonable and reliable source of establishing loss
2 and demonstrating that the entire business was permeated by fraud, an
3 audit by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") notes
4 that there was an approximate loss amount of \$802,299 (an
5 extrapolation based on the denial of 61 out of 61 claims reviewed)
6 over just a one year period between September 2006 and August 2007.
7 (See Decl. of SA Rochelle Wong, Ex. 1). This amounts to
8 approximately \$66,858 of loss per month. Taking that amount over the
9 46 month scheme period in this case (January 2006 through October
10 2009) results in a loss amount of \$3,075,468. This loss amount would
11 result in an 18-point enhancement. Although the government submits
12 this is also a reasonable estimate of loss, the government, at this
13 time, and in this particular case, does not object to the PSR's
14 method of establishing loss pursuant to fraudulent prescriptions
15 associated with the six referring physicians as discussed above.

16 **C. Aggravating Role Enhancement**

17 There was ample evidence at trial that clearly showed that the
18 defendant acted as a "manager or supervisor" as defined in §3B1.1 and
19 that based on the number of participants, as well as the extent of
20 the criminal activity, a 3-level enhancement should apply.

21 Section 3B1.1(b) states that the offense level shall increase by
22 3 levels if the defendant was a "manager or supervisor" and the
23 "criminal activity involved five or more participants or was
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25 amount being the amount paid by Medicare. The government
26 respectfully disagrees with that position and submits that intended
27 loss is something more; something different than actual loss. The
28 government also respectfully disagrees with the statement in the PSR
that defendant "would have known that the entirety of his billed
amounts would not be reimbursed." (CR 116 at ¶22). There was no
evidence presented at trial to support such a finding.

1 otherwise extensive." The application note of the Sentencing
2 Guidelines states that in "assessing whether an organization is
3 'otherwise extensive,' all persons involved during the course of the
4 entire offense are to be considered. Thus, a fraud that involved
5 only three participants but used the unknowing services of many
6 outsiders could be considered extensive." U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1,
7 Application Note 3.

8 The defendant was the owner and operator of Royal Medical
9 Supply, and as such, he was the head of the business and the manager.
10 There were also more than five participants involved. There were,
11 for example, two individuals identified by beneficiary witness N.C.
12 who recruited her; there was referring physician Dr. R.A.G. who
13 issued prescriptions that were filled by Royal and who was indicted;
14 and there was also Dr. J.W.E. and his associate A.S. who together
15 were generating prescriptions in the Fresno area.

16 In addition, the criminal activity was "extensive" because it
17 involved the participation of numerous people. For example, the
18 defendant testified that he employed I.S. (who testified), and he
19 also employed N.B. who handled management services for Royal. There
20 was also R.G., who made certain deliveries for defendant. Also,
21 there were at least six beneficiaries who testified at trial that
22 stated that they were recruited by different individuals, including
23 beneficiary C.M. who said "people" took his driver license and Social
24 Security card.

25 In sum, the entire scheme from start to finish required several
26 doctors, patient-recruiters, and office staff. Six doctors alone
27 were associated with fraudulent prescriptions or theft of their
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1 identity. For the defendant's plan to be successful, it even
2 required the use of numerous beneficiaries who unwittingly became
3 involved. A thousand beneficiaries alone lived more than a hundred
4 miles away from Royal.

5 Therefore, based on the evidence presented at trial, the
6 defendant should be given a 3-level enhancement as the manager or
7 supervisor in a fraudulent scheme with more than five criminal
8 participants or was otherwise extensive.

9 **D. Obstruction of Justice**

10 U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1 provides for a 2-point enhancement if the
11 defendant willfully obstructed or impeded, or attempted to obstruct
12 or impede, the administration of justice. An example of obstructive
13 conduct is "committing, suborning, or attempting to suborn perjury."
14 U.S.S.G. 3C1.1, App. Note 4(b). A witness commits perjury if he
15 gives false testimony under oath or affirmation, "concerning a
16 material matter, with the willful intent to provide false testimony,
17 rather than as a result of confusion, mistake, or faulty memory."
18 *United States v. Dunnigan*, 507 U.S. 87, 94 (1993). "The sentencing
19 judge need only find by a preponderance of the evidence that the
20 defendant committed perjury." *United States v. Armstrong*, 620 F.3d
21 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2010).

22 Defendant's testimony during a hearing to suppress his
23 statements to agents was materially false on several occasions, and
24 the defendant committed perjury. At the suppression hearing,
25 defendant testified, among other things, that law enforcement were
26 displaying their guns, which he described as a "revolver" on the hip,
27 and that they wore clothing with "FBI" written in large letters.

1 However, testimony from the agents in this case definitively
2 established that they were not carrying revolvers during the
3 interview of the defendant. In fact, as noted during the hearing,
4 agents do not carry revolvers except potentially as a backup weapon.
5 Further, agents established that they wore civilian clothing that
6 day, and that they did not have any weapons visible in plain sight.
7 With just these few aspects of his testimony alone, defendant
8 demonstrated his willingness to make any statement under oath in
9 Court that could possibly suit his purpose. But there was more.

10 Defendant stated that he was under the heavy influence of many
11 alcoholic drinks and various medications; that he was not free to
12 leave at the interview; and that he did not consent to an interview.
13 All of that testimony was contradicted by the agents' testimony or
14 otherwise did not add up. Additionally, agents stated that during
15 the interview the defendant either made or received a phone call
16 after which he advised agents that he needed to leave. However,
17 despite the account of two different agents on the stand, defendant
18 testified that there was no way he was on the phone because he did
19 not have cell service there. Defendant's entire testimony regarding
20 his interview with agents was created without any regard for the
21 truth.

22 At trial, testifying in front of the jury, defendant fared no
23 better with truthfulness. Defendant testified that numerous
24 signatures and "VB" initials, on documents related to supposed
25 deliveries of equipment, were not actually signed by him. This
26 testimony was squarely contradicted by the documents themselves, as
27 well as other documents that defendant admitted had his signatures,
28

1 such as bank signature cards, which showed the same signatures as was
2 placed on other delivery related documents that he denied had his
3 signatures.

4 At trial, defendant also testified that he did not tell SA Li
5 and SA Wong that he signed a specific delivery ticket that they had
6 showed him (GX 18 at p. 7). However, SAs Li and Wong testified at
7 trial that defendant had stated during an interview that it was his
8 signature on that delivery ticket (GX 18 at p. 7).

9 Defendant also testified that he did not make any deliveries in
10 Fresno, and in fact has never been to Fresno. However, delivery
11 related documents, for beneficiaries who lived in Fresno, bear
12 defendant's signatures (see e.g., GX 18 at p. 7; GX 37 at pp. 9, 16),
13 and the claims data indicates a significant percentage of defendant's
14 business was for beneficiaries who lived in the Fresno area (see GX
15 13). In fact, approximately 130 of Royal's beneficiaries were
16 located in the Fresno area per SA Wong's testimony.

17 The weight of all the evidence shows that defendant provided
18 perjured testimony at trial, and the 2-point enhancement should be
19 applied under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1.

20 **E. Abuse of a Position of Trust**

21 The government agrees with the PSR that a two-point enhancement
22 for abuse of position of trust should be applied pursuant to U.S.S.G.
23 § 3B1.3. The Ninth Circuit recently held that this adjustment can
24 apply for medical equipment suppliers where they have the requisite
25 "'professional or managerial discretion' . . . if they are
26 responsible for determining the need for the equipment they provide
27 //

1 and personally certify the validity of their claims to Medicare."
2 *United States v. Adebimpe*, 819 F.3d 1212, 1214 (9th Cir. 2016).

3 Per defendant's testimony and as indicated through government
4 exhibits admitted at trial, defendant was the owner of Royal Medical
5 Supply and was in charge of its operations. (See GX 6 at p. 27). As
6 in *Adebimpe*, here, defendant certified that he would not submit
7 fraudulent claims and that he would abide by Medicare laws and
8 regulations. (See GX 4 at p. 33; see also GXs 2, 5, and 6). Also,
9 testimony at trial of the Medicare witness, M.N., indicated that the
10 DME supplier had a responsibility to independently determine the need
11 for the equipment they provided and to ensure that the beneficiary
12 meets the coverage criteria for the equipment. The DME provider was
13 required, here, as in *Adebimpe*, to conduct their own home assessments
14 to ensure that the power wheelchair could be accommodated and
15 maneuvered within the beneficiaries' homes. Evidence at trial showed
16 that many of these home assessments were also fraudulently created.

17 Ultimately, the defendant was the one who controlled and
18 operated Royal Medical Supply and, as a supply company that billed
19 and received money from Medicare, defendant was in a position of
20 trust with respect to Medicare; a position of trust that he abused by
21 submitting false claims to Medicare. See, e.g., *United States v.*
22 *Miller*, 607 F.3d 144, 149 (5th Cir. 2010) (finding that abuse of
23 trust enhancement applied because Medicare "rel[ies] not only on the
24 truthfulness of physicians but also on the truthfulness of other
25 vendors, including DME providers such as [defendant]").

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F. Government's Guidelines Calculations

Given all of the above enhancements and adjustments, the government submits that the following is the defendant's appropriate total offense level and Guidelines Range:

Base Offense Level : + 6 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(2)]

Loss Amount (more than \$1 million) : +16 [U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)]

Abuse of Trust : + 2 [U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3]

Aggravating Role : + 3 [U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1(b)]

Obstruction of Justice : + 2 [U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1]

Total Offense Level : 29

The corresponding range of imprisonment for this offense level is 87-108 months. Based upon the above Guidelines calculations and the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the government submits that the Court should sentence defendant to 87 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

IV. RESTITUTION

The restitution amount in this case is the amount that Medicare paid based on the fraudulent billings during the course of the scheme. As advanced by the PSR, the Court should require the defendant to pay the amount that was paid by Medicare pursuant to the fraudulent prescriptions associated with six referring physicians during the course of the fraud scheme, \$1,266,860.03 (based on \$1,822,130.50 billed).

Restitution is mandatory under the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act ("MVRA") because the defendant's crime involved fraud and deceit. See 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(1)(A)(ii); *United States v. Gordon*, 393 F.3d

1 1044, 1048 (9th Cir. 2004) ("The MVRA makes restitution mandatory for
2 . . . offenses which involve fraud or deceit"; courts interpreting
3 MVRA may look to and rely upon cases interpreting Victim and Witness
4 Protection Act (VWPA) as precedent); *United States v. Mitrione*, 357
5 F.3d 712, 721-22 (7th Cir. 2004) (Medicare was a victim under MVRA
6 and, therefore, sentencing court properly ordered defendants to pay
7 restitution to Medicare); *United States v. Lawrence*, 189 F.3d 838,
8 846 (9th Cir. 1999) ("[O]nly when the crime of conviction involves a
9 scheme, conspiracy or pattern of criminal activity . . . may the
10 restitution order include acts of related conduct for which the
11 defendant was not convicted"); *United States v. Rutgard*, 116 F.3d
12 1270, 1294 (9th Cir. 1997) (under VWPA, restitution may be ordered
13 for losses to person harmed in the course of defendant's scheme even
14 beyond counts of conviction).

15 **V. SENTENCING FACTORS - 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)**

16 **1. Nature and Circumstances of the Offense**

17 The nature and circumstances of the defendant's offense warrant
18 sentencing him to a term of imprisonment of 87 months. Defendant
19 committed a serious offense. Fraud schemes such as the one operated
20 by the defendant target a federal program designed to provide medical
21 care to some of the most vulnerable members of society - the aged and
22 disabled. Although Medicare fraud is a serious problem nationwide,
23 it is particularly acute in the Central District of California. See
24 *Medicare Health Care Fraud & Abuse Efforts: Before Committee on the*
25 *Budget*, U.S. H. of Rep., 108th Cong. (2007) (statement of Michael O.
26 Leavitt, Sec. of U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services). In fact,
27 the Central District of California is second only to the Southern
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1 District of Florida in the amount of Medicare funds lost each year to
2 fraud schemes such as the one perpetrated by defendant. *Id.*

3 As the owner of Royal, defendant oversaw a multi-year, multi-
4 million dollar fraud perpetrated against a vulnerable government
5 program through the exploitation of elderly and infirm Medicare
6 beneficiaries. The Medicare program is a trust-based system that
7 relies on providers to submit true and accurate claims for
8 reimbursement. By targeting the Medicare program, defendant
9 wrongfully obtained money that could have been used to provide these
10 valuable health care benefits to the elderly and disabled. These
11 types of premeditated schemes pose a clear danger to the viability of
12 the Medicare program.

13 **2. History and Characteristics of the Defendant**

14 The defendant chose to exploit his position as the owner of
15 Royal. No one compelled the defendant to engage in Medicare fraud -
16 he is responsible for the decisions that he made, motivated by greed,
17 to engage in a scheme to commit health care fraud and defraud the
18 Medicare program.

19 In addition, at trial the defendant testified and he lied about
20 his conduct and knowledge to suit his purposes. As explained *supra*,
21 his testimony contradicted the accounts provided by other witnesses
22 and the documents in this case. Additionally, the defendant has not
23 once accepted any responsibility for his role in the fraud scheme in
24 this case.

25 //

26 //

1 **3. Deterrence, Promoting Respect for the Law, Protecting the**
2 **Public From the Defendant, and Punishing the Defendant for**
3 **His Crimes**

4 Section 3553(a)(2) states that at sentencing, the court shall
5 consider, among other things, the need for the sentence imposed -

6 (a) . . . to promote respect for the law, and provide just
7 punishment for the offense . . . ;

8 (b) to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct;
9 [and]

10 (c) to protect the public from further crimes of the
11 defendant

12 See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2).

13 The Government's recommended sentence of 87 months reflects the
14 seriousness of the offense, promotes respect for the law, and
15 provides just punishment for the defendant's crimes. The defendant
16 devised a calculated scheme to defraud Medicare by submitting claims
17 for equipment that beneficiaries did not medically need and in some
18 cases never received. In doing so, defendant even maintained
19 fraudulent paperwork. For example, many documents bearing the
20 signatures of beneficiaries were not in fact signed by the
21 beneficiaries, and other documents, such as required home
22 assessments, were fraudulently created. During the entire course of
23 the scheme, the defendant submitted more than \$4 million in claims to
24 Medicare, and he was paid approximately \$2.7 million on those claims.

25 The United States submits that a sentence of 87 months in
26 custody is also necessary to deter others from engaging in similar
27 criminal activity. Medicare fraud is rampant in the Central District
28 of California. This sentence is necessary to send a message to the

1 defendant and others that this District will not tolerate their
2 conduct and will punish them accordingly if they continue to
3 victimize both Medicare and the elderly and disabled Medicare
4 beneficiaries in the community.

5 **VI. CONCLUSION**

6 For the foregoing reasons, this Court should apply the
7 Guidelines calculations set forth in this sentencing memorandum, and
8 find that the defendant has an offense level 29, for an advisory
9 Guidelines range of 87-108 months imprisonment. Based on this range,
10 the government respectfully submits that, among other applicable
11 fines and assessments, this Court should sentence defendant to a term
12 of 87 months imprisonment, followed by a term of three years of
13 supervised release, and order restitution payments of at least
14 \$1,266,860.03 to Medicare. Such a sentence is necessary to punish
15 the defendant for his conduct in this case and to afford adequate
16 deterrence so that other individuals will not engage in similar
17 brazen schemes to defraud the Medicare program.

18 Dated: September 23, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

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23 /s/

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